

# A Compendium of Canonical Characters



## The Return of Sherlock Holmes

# Canonical Characters



Frederic Dorr Steele,  
January, 1904

## The Adventure of the Priory School



### "The Adventure of the Priory School"

01

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Sherlock Holmes
- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - James Wilder

## Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,  
February, 1904

## The Adventure of the Priory School



## "The Adventure of the Priory School"

02

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

- 08 - The Duke of Holderness
- 09 - Reuben Hayes
- 10 - Lord Saltire
- 11 -- Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable
- 12 - Herr Heidegger
- 13 - Palmer Tyres
- 14 - Data! Data!

# Canonical Characters

THE STRAND MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY, 1904.

## THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

V.—*The Adventure of the Priory School.*

**W**E have had some dramatic entrances and exits upon our small stage at Baker Street, but I cannot recollect anything more sudden and startling than the first appearance of Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable, M.A., Ph.D., etc. His card, which seemed too small to carry the weight of his academic distinctions, preceded him by a few seconds, and then he entered himself—so large, so pompous, and so dignified that he was the very embodiment of self-possession and solidity. And yet his first action when the door had closed behind him was to stagger against the table, whence he slipped down upon the floor, and there was that majestic figure prostrate and insensible upon our bearskin hearthrug.

We had sprung to our feet, and for a few moments we stared in silent amazement at this ponderous piece of wreckage, which told of some sudden and fatal storm far out on the ocean of life. Then Holmes hurried with a cushion for his head and I with brandy for his lips. The heavy white face was seamed with lines of trouble, the hanging pouches under the closed eyes were leaden in colour, the loose mouth drooped dolorously at the corners, the rolling chins were unshaven. Collar and shirt bore the grime of a long journey, and the hair bristled uncombed from the well-shaped head. It was a stricken man who lay before us.

"What is it, Watson?" asked Holmes. "Absolute exhaustion—possibly mere and fatigue," said I, with my finger to my throbbing temple, where the stream of blood was thin and small.

"Ticket from Mackleton, in the pocket," said Holmes, drawing it from his pocket. "It is not twelve

o'clock yet. He has certainly been an early starter."

The puckered eyelids had begun to quiver, and now a pair of vacant, grey eyes looked up at us. An instant later the man had scrambled on to his feet, his face crimson with shame.

"Forgive this weakness, Mr. Holmes; I have been a little overwrought. Thank you, if I might have a glass of milk and a biscuit I have no doubt that I should be better. I came personally, Mr. Holmes, in order to ensure that you would return with me. I feared that no telegram would convince you of the absolute urgency of the case."

"When you are quite restored—"

"I am quite well again. I cannot imagine how I came to be so weak. I wish you, Mr. Holmes, to come to Mackleton with me by the next train."

My friend shook his head.

"My colleague, Dr. Watson, could tell you that we are very busy at present. I am retained in this case of the Ferrers Documents, and the Abergavenny murder is coming up for trial. Only a very important issue could call me from London at present."

"Important!" Our visitor threw up his hands. "Have you heard nothing of the abduction of the only son of the Duke of Holderness?"

"What! the late Cabinet Minister?"

"Exactly. We had tried to keep it out of the papers, but there was some rumour in the *Globe* last night. I thought it might have reached your ears."

Holmes shot out his long, thin finger and picked out Volume "H" in his encyclopedia of reference.

"Holderness, 6th Duke. Half the alphabet! 'Baron'

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## The Adventure of the Priory School



### "The Adventure of the Priory School"

03

(*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

The director of the Priory School, Thorneycroft Huxtable arrives at 221b, and promptly faints to the floor. After being revived, he tells Holmes and Watson that one of his students, the young Lord Saltire, son of the very rich and powerful Duke of Holderness, is missing from the school.

Kidnapping suspicions have focused on Herr Heidegger, the German master, who disappeared from the school, along with his bicycle, on the same day.

Can Holmes determine the fate of the young student and hopefully find him and save him from an unsavory demise?

# Canonical Characters



Martin Van Maële,  
1906

## The Adventure of the Priory School



# "The Adventure of the Priory School" (*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

04

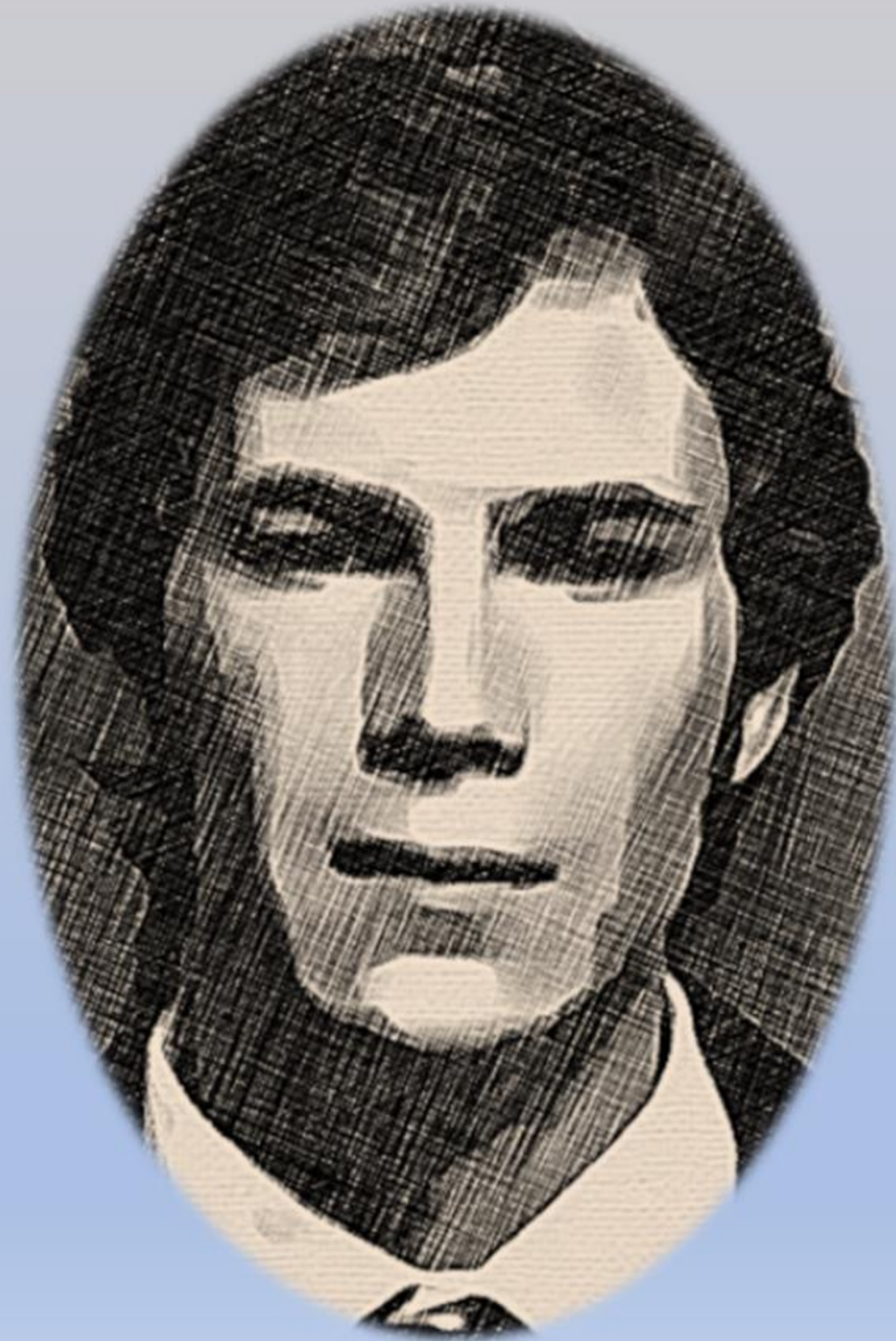
### Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
April, 1921	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
July 16, 1984	UK	Jeremy Brett	David Burke

### Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
May 04, 1931	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
April 19, 1933	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
January 08, 1940	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
July 02, 1943	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
1959		Maurice Teynac	Pierre Destailles
January 08, 1962	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
July 02, 1978	BBC	Barry Foster	David Buck
1987	BBC	Roy Marsden	John Moffatt
March 24, 1993	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams

## Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of the Priory  
School”

05

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

*“I am familiar with forty-two  
different impressions left by  
tires.”*

*“Strange, Watson, that we should  
see tracks all along our line, but  
never a cow on the whole moor.”*

Sherlock Holmes touched the  
Duke upon the shoulder. “I  
accuse YOU,” said he. “And now,  
your Grace, I’ll trouble you for  
that check.”

*(James D’arcy, 2002, Sherlock: Case of Evil)*

## Canonical Characters



John Watson



## "The Adventure of the Priory School" 06

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

"We have had some dramatic entrances and exits upon our small stage at Baker Street, but I cannot recollect anything more sudden and startling than the first appearance of Thorneycroft Huxtable, M.A., Ph.D., etc."

*"I am convinced, that this Reuben Hayes knows all about it. A more self-evident villain I never saw."*

*(Roger Morlidge, 2002, Sherlock: Case of Evil)*

## Canonical Characters



James Wilder



### “The Adventure of the Priory School” 07

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

Secretary and illegitimate son of  
Duke of Holderness.

“James told Arthur that his mother  
longed to see him and that if he  
would come back into the wood at  
midnight he would find a man with a  
horse, who would take him to her.”

Bound for Australia to seek his  
fortune.

*“His Grace is by no means convinced  
that the police have failed.”*

(Nicholas Gecks, 1986, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Priory School”)



## Canonical Characters



The Duke of Holderness



## “The Adventure of the Priory School” 08

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

Former cabinet minister, 6th Duke,  
Father of Lord Saltire and James  
Wilder.

“He was tall, with a drawn, thin face,  
a nose which was grotesquely curved  
and a long, dwindling beard of vivid  
red.”

*“I could not acknowledge the  
paternity to the world, but I gave  
him the best of educations, and  
since he came to manhood, I have  
kept him near my person.”*

(Alan Howard, 1986, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Priory School”)

## Canonical Characters



Reuben Hayes



### “The Adventure of the Priory School” 09

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

“A squat, dark, elderly man who smoked a black clay pipe. Conspired with James Wilder to kidnap Lord Saltire and hold him until the Duke of Holderness changed his will.

Murdered Herr Heidegger to complete the kidnapping of Lord Saltire.

Arrested at Chesterfield.

“The gallows awaits him, and I would do nothing to save him from it.”

*“I've less reason to wish the Dook well than most men.”*

(Jack Carr, 1986, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Priory School”)

## Canonical Characters



Lord Saltire



## “The Adventure of the Priory School” 10

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

Ten-year old, Arthur, only heir of the Duke of Holderness.

Left Priory School after midnight, planning to see his mother and was kidnapped by Reuben Hayes.

“He was a charming youth, and he soon fell into our ways.”

(Nissar Modi, 1986, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Priory School”)

## Canonical Characters



Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable



## “The Adventure of the Priory School” 11

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

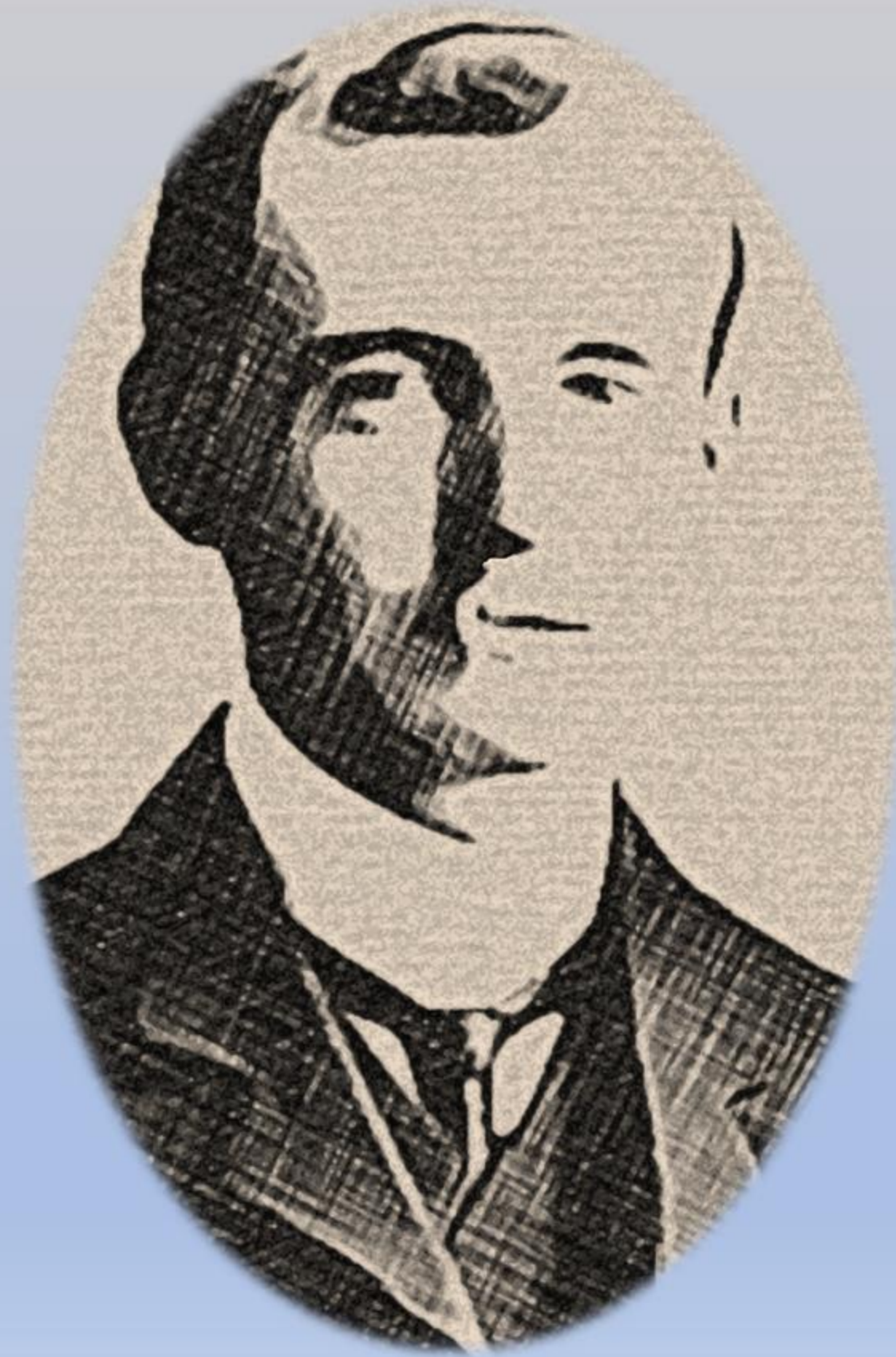
Founder and principal of the Priory School near Mackleton where Lord Saltire disappeared.

*“If I might have a glass of milk and a biscuit, I have no doubt that I should be better.”*

*“I felt that my school had reached its zenith when the Duke of Holderness sent his only son and heir to my charge. Little did I think that this would be the prelude to the most crushing misfortune of my life.”*

(Christopher Benjamin, 1986, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Priory School”)

## Canonical Characters



Herr Heidegger



## “The Adventure of the Priory School”

12

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

German mathematical master who followed Lord Saltire.

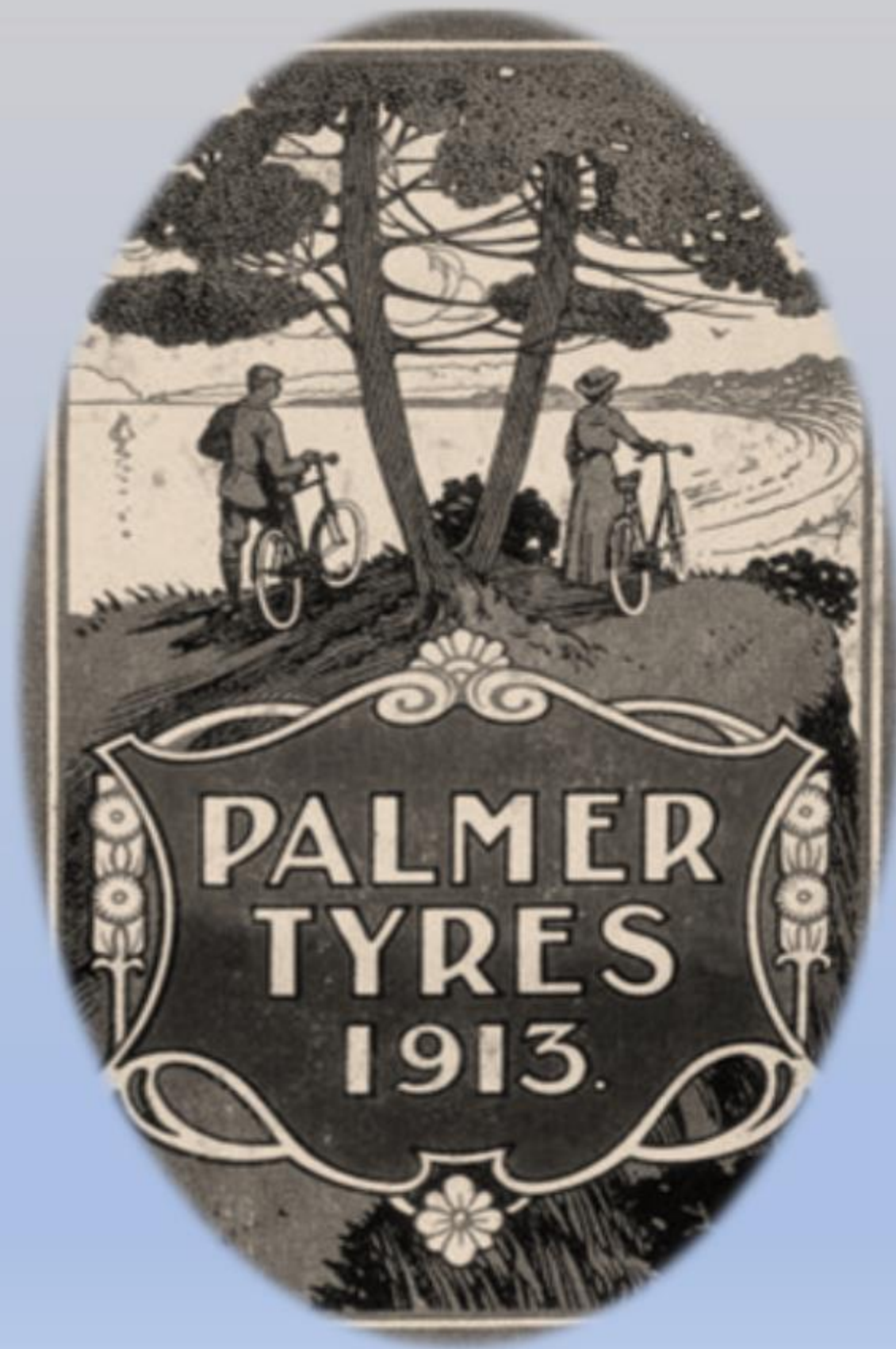
“From his bedroom window, he saw the flight of the boy, because he wished to overtake him and bring him back.

He seized his bicycle, pursued the lad, and in pursuing him met his death.”

“He had been with me for two years, and came with the best references; but he was a silent, morose man, not very popular with either masters or boys.”

(Charles Tingwell, 1968, Sherlock Holmes, “The Priory School”)

## Canonical Characters



Palmer Tyres



### "The Adventure of the Priory School"

13

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

*"I am familiar with forty-two different impressions left by tyres. This, as you perceive, is a Dunlop, with a patch upon the outer cover.*

*Heidegger's tyres were Palmers, leaving longitudinal stripes. Aveling, the mathematical master, was sure upon the point.*

*Therefore, it is not Heidegger's track."*

# Canonical Characters



Frederic Dorr Steele,  
January, 1904

## The Adventure of the Priory School



### "The Adventure of the Priory School" (*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

14

First  
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January 30, 1904

U.K. - *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,  
March 07, 1905 George Newnes Ltd.  
U.S. - *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,  
February, 1905, McClure, Phillips & Co.

Chronological  
Date:

May 16, 1901  
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

# 18 of 56 short stories  
(Sherlockian poll, 1999, Stock)

Christ  
Abbreviation:

PRIO